

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**ACCESS CONTROL**

(Ac.)

**CODE 472**

**DEFINITION**

The temporary or permanent exclusion of animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment from an area.

**PURPOSE**

Achieve and maintain desired resource conditions by monitoring and managing the intensity of use by animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment in coordination with the application schedule of practices, measures and activities specified in the conservation plan.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

This practice will be planned on all land uses where permanent or temporary control of access is needed. Examples of practices that may require control of access are: grass planting, tree planting and buffer practices.

**CRITERIA**

Use-regulating activities (e.g., posting of signs, patrolling, gates, fences and other barriers, permits) shall achieve the intended purpose and include mitigating associated resource concerns to acceptable levels during their installation, operation, and maintenance. Activities will complement the application schedule and life span of other practices specified in the conservation plan.

Each activity or measure will identify the entity to be monitored and regulated (animals, people, vehicles and/or equipment) and specify the intent, intensity, amounts, and timing of exclusion by that entity. Activities may involve

temporary to permanent exclusion of one to all entities.

Placement, location, dimensions and materials (e.g., signs, gates), and frequency of use (e.g., continuous, specific season, or specific dates) shall be described for each activity including monitoring frequency.

Barriers must be adequate to prevent, restrict, or control use by vehicles, animals, or people. The barriers must not be a safety hazard.

For fencing specifications, refer to the Arkansas NRCS Fence (382) practice standard.

Barrier life expectancy must be adequate for the intended purpose.

Timing and exclusion periods shall be described to accomplish intended purposes.

Adequate warnings or markings will be displayed where there is potential danger with the use of a barrier.

Comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation, and maintenance of this practice.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

The land manager and/or tenant should be advised about emergency preparedness agencies and related information, e.g., the local fire/wildfire control agency and pumper truck water sources on or near the area.

Information should be designated initially and re-designated annually if needed.

Barrier type and design should account for and minimize impact on wildlife health and animal movement and human health.

**NRCS, AR**

**June 2010**

Barriers may consist of either natural and/or artificial structures such as logs, vegetation, earth-fill, boulders, fences, gates, electronic and sonic devices, or signs.

### **PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each area and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

### **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Monitoring of the effectiveness of use-regulating activities will be performed routinely and at least annually with changes made to specifications and operation and maintenance requirements as necessary.

Modifications to activities and use of measures are allowed temporarily to accommodate emergency-level contingencies such as wildfire, tornado, drought, or flood as long as resource conditions are maintained or returned to normal conditions.

### **REFERENCES**

Gucinski, H.; M.J. Furniss, R.R. Ziemer, M.H. Brookes. 2001. Forest roads: a synthesis of scientific information. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNWGTR-509. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station.

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. 2003. Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways - Part 5, Traffic Control Devices for Low-Volume Roads. Washington, DC.  
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